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*Ebenezer Rockwood Hoar: a Memoir.* By MOORFIELD STOREY and EDWARD W. EMERSON. (Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Company. 1911. Pp. 355.)

THIS brief biography of Judge Hoar is to be welcomed hardly less because of the light which it throws upon important historic movements and events in which he bore an active part than for its convincing portrayal of the man whom Lowell described as of all his friends "the most genuine Yankee".

Born in Concord, Massachusetts, the son of Samuel Hoar and the elder brother of George Frisbie Hoar, heredity and environment combined to make him the type of man and citizen of which Massachusetts is most proud. His frequent calls to public service never lessened the lure of his quiet home in his native town, with its intimate friendships with Emerson and Hawthorne and less distinguished neighbors. Nor was he without honor in his own country: for two-score years at almost every occasion of civic interest he was Concord's chosen representative.

He early showed a keen aptitude for politics, and soon became one of the most influential leaders in the movement which disrupted the Whig party. His keenness of tongue and pen made him a formidable fighter. The antithesis, "Cotton Whigs" and "Conscience Whigs" came from him, and to the Republican platform in 1856 he contributed the telling phrase, "those two relics of barbarism, polygamy and slavery". Though influential in party councils and in campaign work, he never sought office, and accepted it with reluctance when elected to the Massachusetts senate, and later for a single term to the national House of Representatives. In his later years it was hard for him to see excellence outside of the Republican party; he regarded Mugwumps—including his three sons—"with amused tolerance".

He became one of the foremost jurists in his commonwealth, and was early appointed to the court of common pleas. After six years of service he resigned, but later accepted an appointment to the Massachusetts supreme court, to which he gave ten years of eminent service, at the end of which he became attorney-general in Grant's Cabinet.

The historical interest of this book centres mainly in the light which it sheds upon the personality of Grant and the events of his administrations. At the very first Cabinet meeting which Judge Hoar attended, the President announced his intention to appoint a certain man chief justice of one of the territories, adding that he had great sympathy with this veteran, who had lost both legs in battle. His counsellors sat in embarrassed silence, until the Attorney-General remarked: "Mr. President, it seems to me that mere absence of legs is not a sufficient qualification for a judicial office." His colleagues were somewhat aghast, but the President laughed, and the appointment was never made. The episode is to a degree typical of relations which continued to obtain between the shrewd judge and his inexperienced chief. Particularly in matters of "sound money" and of appointments to the new circuit

judgeships his influence was effective. He secured a strong list of judges, but in so doing he incurred the hostility of many a senator who had hoped to pay political debts by the gift of one of these nominations. The opportunity for revenge was at hand, for when Grant appointed Judge Hoar for a position upon the Supreme Bench much angry opposition was encountered; for five months the nomination was before the Senate, and was then rejected. "What could you expect for a man who had snubbed seventy senators?" was the comment of one of that body.

Judge Hoar first learned of his selection for Cabinet office from the bulletin-boards of Boston newspapers. Almost equally abrupt was the intimation that his resignation was desired, when Grant saw an opportunity to win favor at the South by appointing an Attorney-General from that section. Judge Hoar bore this astounding treatment "with perfect serenity", not allowing it to chill his personal regard for the President. Only a few months later, Grant again sought his service as a member of the Joint High Commission which adjusted the long-pending controversy with Great Britain by the treaty of Washington.

It is fitting that the biography of this jurist and loyal son of Concord should have been prepared as the joint product of the leader of the Massachusetts bar and the son of Ralph Waldo Emerson, Judge Hoar's lifelong friend. Sympathetic insight and the command of personal memories and documents have enabled them to present a striking characterization of the man. Yet this biography obviously suffers from a lack of unified interest and responsibility. Its structure is very loose. Repetitions in almost identical phrase occur even on consecutive pages. Heavy dependence has been placed upon Senator Hoar's autobiography. The headings of the longest chapters, *The Public Spirited Citizen* and *Personal Reminiscences*, permit a loose stringing of episodes, many of great interest, but some of trifling importance. Nevertheless, in these pages Judge Hoar stands forth as a virile personality, a nineteenth-century Puritan, as shrewd as he was learned, devotedly loyal and largely serviceable to his native town and to his college, to his commonwealth, and to his country.

GEORGE H. HAYNES.

*J. L. M. Curry: a Biography.* By EDWIN ANDERSON ALDERMAN and ARMISTEAD CHURCHILL GORDON. (New York: The Macmillan Company. 1911. Pp. xvii, 468.)

JABEZ LAMAR MONROE CURRY was born in Georgia in 1825, he studied law at Harvard, "went off" to the Mexican War in 1846, entered the Alabama legislature in 1847, became a member of Congress in 1857, and was a leader of national reputation in 1860, when he was only thirty-five years old. He was next a member of the Confederate Congress, a colonel in the Confederate army, a minister in the Baptist Church, a college professor in Richmond, Virginia, and a popular lecturer on educational topics. From 1881 till his death in 1903 he was agent of the